FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 2, 2005

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FIRST WEST NILE POSITIVE BIRDS FOUND IN WASHOE COUNTY

Three dead birds collected in Washoe County have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). One robin and one dove tested positive in ZIP code area 89509, in Southwest Reno, and one dove in Sun Valley, ZIP code 89433 also tested positive.

Practice preventive measures to reduce the chance of being bitten by mosquitoes by using mosquito repellent containing either DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, wear long sleeve shirts, pants and socks, be aware that mosquitoes are most active during dusk and dawn, remove standing water from around your house and check to make sure the screens on your windows and doors fit properly.

West Nile Virus most often is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes are WNV carriers (also known as vectors) that become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread WNV to humans and other animals when they bite. West Nile Virus is **NOT** spread through casual contact such as touching or kissing a person with the virus.

For more information, please go to our web site at www.washoecounty.us/health or to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.CDC.gov and look for "Fight the Bite."

WNV IN LOCAL BIRDS 2-2-2-2

SPECIAL NOTE TO THE MEDIA:

Telephone numbers to report sick/dead birds:

Washoe County: 775-328-2434

Department of Agriculture: 775-688-1182, Ext. 231 Clark County – West Nile Hotline: 702-759-1220

Carson City: 775-887-2190

Telephone numbers for public health questions:

Statewide: 1-888-608-4623

Carson City: 775-887-2190

Clark County – West Nile Hotline: 702-759-1220

Animal Health Questions:

Statewide: 775-688-1182, Ext. 232